SUBJECTS.

and around Mundakayam would be enormously increased and within the next four to five years there would be at least 12,000 to 15,000 labourers on the estates now under cultivation with rubber. This must bring traders and artisans in numbers to the district, and it was a matter for consideration, before deciding on a new court-house at Kanjirapalli, whether the Peermade Court could not be declared a Munsiff's Court. As there was plenty of space available, no new building would be necessary except an extra clerk's room. Such a Court would suit Peermade and would be convenient also for the Mundakayam estates. Ponkunnam was very inconvenient for both the Peermade and Mundakayam estates. If the Munsiff's Court were built at Mundakayam within the Cardamom Hills jurisdiction and the Peermade Court declared a Munsiff's Court, the wants of these important districts would be fully met. He therefore said that the Association strongly protested against the suggested removal of the Ponkunnam Court to Meenachil unless the Sirkar sanctioned a Munsiff's Court at Mundakayam or Peermade.

Dewan's reply.—The reports of the District Magistrates concerned, about the jurisdiction of the Kanjirapalli and Peermade Magistrates, have been received. I shall go through the papers and shall also visit the locality in about a month before disposing of the question. The views of the Member about the civil jurisdiction are noted. This is a matter in which the High Court have to be consulted, before anything is definitely settled. I may however tell you that there is at present no proposal before Government regarding the transfer of the Court at Kanjirapalli, as referred to by the Member.

62. *Construction of a pucka building for the Mundakayam dispensary.*

Mr. H. D. Deane (Member, Rubber Planters' Association) said that the Mundakayam dispensary consisted of only three rooms and the accommodation was very inadequate to the actual requirements of the large district of which Mundakayam is the centre. The average daily attendance of out-patients was about 46. There was no provision made for contagious diseases and no accommodation for in-patients. The Planters had themselves erected two hospitals, one on the Kadamangalam estate built and equipped by the Central Travancore and Travancore Rubber Estate Companies, and the other on the Yendaar estate built by Mr. J. Murphy and maintained by the Yendaar, Eldorado and Kutikal estates and these hospitals, which had suitable wards for in-patients, did much to alleviate suffering among the labourers at the northern and southern ends of the district. But the Government dispensary had no proper accommoda-

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

SUBJECTS.

tion for in-patients and was quite unfit for the requirements of the large population it was intended to serve. The Member therefore prayed for the early construction of proper buildings for the dispensary. He also requested that the Dewan might be pleased to visit Peermade and Mundakayam as early as possible.

Dewan's reply.—As I hope to visit Mundakayam soon, I shall look into the hospital and see if anything could be done.

KOTTAYAM DIVISION.

SHERTALLAY TALUK.

63. Improvement of communications.

Mr. Narayanan Nilakantan (Member, Shertallay Taluk) represented that the people of the taluk laboured under peculiar difficulties in the matter of communications. The question of providing roads and canals had formed the subject of several memorials to Government and representations at successive sessions of the Assembly. The Member said that the most urgent needs were a road and a canal to connect Alleppey and Shertallay and he requested that at least one of them should at once be sanctioned.

Dewan's reply.—There are several proposals before Government regarding the improvement of communications in the Shertallay taluk. I shall look into them and see which of them is feasible.

VAIKAM TALUK.

64. Cutting open of the Valianapuzha bund.

Mr. G. Krishna Pillai (Member, Vaikam Taluk) said that the Valianapuzha bund was constructed 20 years ago. As the scheme was not properly investigated before the bund was put up, the result was that the owners of 50,000 paras of paddy lands near Vaikam were unable to harvest their crops during the monsoon, owing to the flooding of the water from the river. The prayer of the ryots for cutting open the bund was not granted, as it was apprehended that the puncha lands of Vetchur proverthi would thereby be affected. The Member requested that the necessary works might be ordered to be carried out to let out the surplus water in times of flood.

Dewan's reply.—As the Public Works department consider that the cutting open of the bund is neither necessary nor expedient, Government must decline to sanction the proposal of the Member.

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